



Emergency Medical Technician Basic (E.M.T-B)

Emergency medical technicians are oftentimes the first people sent to an emergency. When a person calls 911, EMTs are contacted to go where help is needed. Oftentimes, people see an EMT long before they see a doctor. For this reason, it is not uncommon for an EMT to help save a person's life.

EMTs must be prepared to quickly assess and deal with a multitude of emergency situations, including those involving unconscious or trapped persons. They may need to take vitals, give medicine, or use emergency equipment.

If necessary, it is the EMTs job to transport patients to a hospital. They may at times be driving an ambulance or they may be working with a patient in the back of the ambulance. After transporting victims, EMTs may need to communicate with the hospital staff about the patient, record information, and/or clean and replenish supplies in the ambulance.

EMTs may have to deal with unhappy or upset people. Also, because of the nature of their job, they have an above average chance of getting an injury or catching a disease or infection. They are on their feet for extended periods and they must be prepared to work in any kind of weather.

Emergency services are available 24 hours a day. For this reason, EMTs may work inconsistent hours or be on call for large amounts of time. They can be part or full-time and most work from 40 to 60 hours a week.

Indiana Wage Information

	Entry	Median
Hourly Wage	\$10.98	\$14.03

Job Outlook in Indiana

Long term	21.2 % (increase)
Short Term	2.1 % (increase)

*Data collected from hoosierdata.in.gov

Job Duties

- Provide patients with first aid treatment prior to arriving at a hospital
- Give medicine to patients as needed
- Use a mechanism to keep patients from being mobile in order to place them on a stretcher
- Console patients and keep them at ease
- Communicate with and receive direction from dispatchers
- Work with other emergency responders such as the police and fire departments
- Transport patients in an ambulance
- Watch, record, and communicate patient's condition
- Keep ambulance supplies stocked
- Keep ambulance clean by cleaning it after treating patients

Important Qualities

Compassion – must be able to provide emotional support to patients

Communication skills – must be able to provide direction, convey information, console and explain things to patients

Listening skills – must be able to listen to patients in order to assess their condition

Interpersonal skills – must be able to work with others in high-stress situations

Problem-solving skills – must be able to assess a patient's condition in order to provide the appropriate care

Physical strength – must be in good shape in order to do substantial amounts of bending, lifting, and kneeling

Skills and Knowledge

Technical

- Anticipate possible problems
- Use logic, reason, and scientific methods to problem solve
- Understand why people react the way they do
- Know what questions to ask
- Be able to focus without being easily distracted
- Watch indicators to ensure a machine is properly functioning
- Knowledge of medicine is helpful
- Knowledge of therapy is helpful

English Language Arts

- Able to actively listen
- Communicate well with patients and coworkers

Math

- Basic time management skills
- Basic math skills for medicine distribution

Certification and Advancement

There are different levels of EMTs. In Indiana, the three levels are EMT basic (EMT-b), advanced EMT, and paramedic. The state of Indiana requires that a person wanting to work as an EMT be licensed. The first step to becoming a licensed EMT is entering an approved training program, which usually requires students to be at least 18 and to have a minimum of a high school diploma. After finishing training, students must take a test given by the state. This test contains both a written portion and a hands-on portion. Additionally, students need a driver's license. Individuals with a criminal record may be disqualified based on the prior offense.

After completing the exam, students can apply for licensure. Indiana requires a background check before it will issue a license. A separate license is required for an EMT to be able to drive an ambulance and training for this usually takes 8 hours. EMTs typically have to have their license renewed every 2 to 3 years. In addition to this, they oftentimes have to take courses to refresh their knowledge or to continue their education.

To become an advanced EMT or a paramedic requires more education and training. The training required to become a paramedic can actually lead to an associate's degree. While paramedic is the highest level of certification, it is not the highest level of advancement. Paramedics can become supervisors, operations managers, or administrative directors. There are also other areas paramedics can move into, including marketing, sales, and teaching. Some job seekers become EMTs to see if they would be interested in a career in healthcare. People who find they enjoy this type of work may want to look into post-secondary education for health-related degrees.

How can YOU get involved?

The world of work relies on the foundational skills students acquire in your classrooms and/or programs!

- Know your students'/clients' interests and career goals
- Affirm the value of the skills/hobbies students demonstrate both in and outside of the classroom
- Infuse your classroom culture and/or meetings with career-minded activities
- Provide time to make connections between the material learned in adult education or workshops and students' daily lives/career aspirations
- Know the basic job descriptions and training requirements of in-demand occupations in your area
- Know which WorkINdiana programs are available in your region
- Know the processes for referring students to postsecondary or on-the-job training
- Post resources where students can find more information about further education/training and careers

Sources and Further Information:

www.bls.gov/ooh/

www.careeronestop.org

www.mynextmove.org

www.indianacareexplorer.com

www.iseek.org/index.jsp

www.indianaskills.com

www.nremt.org

*Last Updated July 2015